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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : H. RINGHOFF et al.

Group Art Unit: 3617

Serial No : 10/776,269

Examiner: Unknown

Filed : February 12, 2004

For : TIRE BUILDING ARRANGEMENT AND METHOD

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 CFR 1.56 and in accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, the following information is brought to the attention of the Examiner for consideration during examination of the instant application.

Applicant submits herewith a copy of the German Search Report (in German) dated October 20, 2003 and conducted in German Application No. 103 05 895.8, which is a counterpart of the instant application. In particular the German Examiner cited:

(1) DE 199 18 523. This document is cited as a "X,D" category document (i.e., a document which casts doubt on novelty when considered alone, and a document discussed in the German application). The document is indicated by the German Examiner as being

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relevant to claims 1-3 and 5-7 of the German Application. This document is also discussed in the instant application beginning on paragraph [0004];

(2) DE 195 44 369. This document is cited as an “A” category document (i.e., a document of technological background);

(3) US 4,053,342. This document is cited as an “A” category document; and

(4) EP 0 246 497. This document is cited as a “A” category document.

Applicant also submits herewith the following documents for consideration by the Examiner:

(5) DE 100 20 415;

(6) DE 691 17 583;

(7) DE 196 30 452;

(8) DE 196 44 486; and

(9) DE 34 21 165.

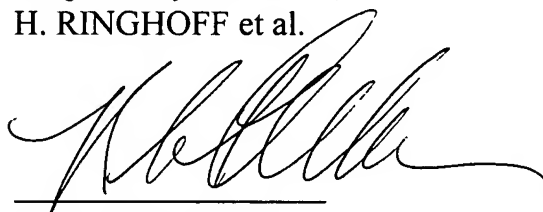
Copies of the above-listed documents including the German Search Report are enclosed as is a completed copy of the PTO-1449 Form listing these documents. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to consider these documents and to indicate such consideration by returning a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form with the first official communication.

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Applicant notes that this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of a US application and/or before receipt of an Office Action on the merits. Accordingly, consideration of the enclosed document is required under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)(1) and (3).

Should the Examiner have any further comments or questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
H. RINGHOFF et al.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil F. Greenblum', written over a horizontal line.

Neil F. Greenblum

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May 18, 2004
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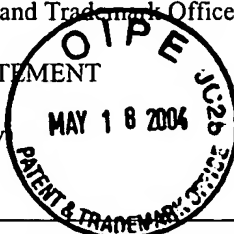
U.S. Department of Commerce
Patent and Trademark Office

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Group
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DATE CONSIDERED

***EXAMINER:** Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.